

Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently amended) A method for sharing user information, the method comprising:

receiving ~~from a user~~ with a network service an identification of a level of access to user information that is to be extended to a web site host, the identification being received from a user computer via a network;

assigning with the network service a user code that is pertinent to the identified level of access;

~~providing~~ sending the assigned user code from the network service to the user computer via a network to enable the user to provide the user code to the web site host when the user visits a web site maintained by the web site host;

receiving from the web site host via a network with the network service a request for information concerning the user and the user code that was provided to the web site host;

determining with the network service a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host; and

transmitting from the network service to the web site host via a network user information ~~to the web site host~~ that pertains to the user code.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the user code comprises a transient key.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of access comprises comparing the user code provided by the web site host with a user code assigned to the user and relevant to a particular user information set.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting user information comprises transmitting user information from a centralized repository associated with the network service which stores user information for a plurality of users.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting user information comprises transmitting user profile information while withholding personal information about the user.

8-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A system associated with a network service for sharing user information, the system comprising:

means for assigning a user code that is pertinent to a level of access selected by a user that is to be extended to a web site host;

means for ~~providing~~ sending the user code from the network service to a user computer via a network to enable the user to provide the user code to the web site host when the user visits a web site maintained by the web site host;

means for receiving from the web site host via a network the user code ~~from~~ provided to the web site host by the user computer;

means for determining a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host; and

means for transmitting from the network service to the web site host via a network user information ~~to the web site host~~ that pertains to the user code.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the means for determining the level of access comprises means for comparing the user code provided by the web site host with a user code assigned to the user and relevant to a particular user information set.

19-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an identification of a level of access comprises receiving selection of one of an anonymous mode in which only profile information and no personal information is provided, and a full disclosure mode in which profile information and personal information is provided.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein receiving an identification of a level of access further comprises receiving user selection of a category of information to share.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein receiving user selection of a category comprises receiving user selection of at least one of a personal category, a business category, and a financial category.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein assigning a user code comprises assigning a first code pertinent to an initial level of access to be provided to the web site host and a second code pertinent to a deeper level of access that can be manually provided by the user if desired.

27. (Currently amended) A method for sharing user information, the method comprising:

receiving at with an e-service various user information sent to the e-service from a user computer via a network, the user information ~~that is~~ to be distributed to web site hosts visited by the user, ~~the user information~~ and being separated into sets each associated with a given levels of access to user information;

assigning with the e-service a user code to each level of access and therefore each information set;

receiving at from the user computer with the e-service via a network ~~from the user an indication selection~~ of a level of access that is to be granted to all web sites visited by the user;

sending to the user computer from the e-service via a network a user code associated with the selected level of access;

receiving at from a web site host with the e-service a user code that ~~has been~~ was provided to a the web site host by the user;

determining with the e-service a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host; and

transmitting from the e-service to the web site host user information that pertains to the user code received from the web site host.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the user code was automatically provided to the web site host upon the user first visiting a web site hosted by the web site host.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the user code was automatically appended to a uniform resource locator (URL) of the web site.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the web site host generating a personalized web site for the user based upon the user information that is transmitted to the web site host from the e-service.

31. (Currently amended) A system for sharing user information, comprising:

means for receiving ~~at~~ with an e-service various user information sent to the e-service with a user computer via a network, the user information ~~that is~~ to be distributed to web site hosts visited by the user, ~~the user information~~ and being separated into sets each associated with a given levels of access to user information;

means for assigning with the e-service a user code to each level of access and therefore each information set;

means for receiving ~~at~~ from the user computer with the e-service via a network ~~from the user an indication~~ selection of a level of access that is to be granted to all web sites visited by the user;

means for sending to the user computer from the e-service via a network a user code associated with the selected level of access;

means for receiving ~~at~~ from a web site host with the e-service a user code that ~~has been~~ was provided to a the web site host by the user;

means for determining with the e-service a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host; and

means for transmitting from the e-service to the web site host user information that pertains to the user code received from the web site host.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, wherein the user code was automatically provided to the web site host upon the user first visiting a web site hosted by the web site host.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the user code was automatically appended to a uniform resource locator (URL) of the web site.

34. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, further comprising means provided by the web site host for generating a personalized web site for the user based upon the user information that is transmitted to the web site host from the e-service.

35. (New) A method comprising:

- a user sending various user information from a user computer to an online service via the Internet, wherein the user information comprises information that the user may wish to share with hosts of web sites that the user will visit;
- the online service storing the user information received from the user computer;
- the online service assigning a user code to a first portion of the user information;
- the online service sending the user code to the user computer via the Internet to enable the user to provide the user code to the web site hosts;
- the user providing the user code to a first web site host upon visiting a web site hosted by the first web site host;
- the first web site host sending the user code received from the user to the online service;
- the online service determining a level of access for which the first web site host is authorized from the user code; and
- the online service sending to the first web site host user information that pertains to the user code.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the user providing the user code to a first web site host comprises automatically providing the user code to the 1st web site host when the user visits the web site hosted by the first web site host.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the user code is automatically appended to a uniform resource locator (URL) of the web site hosted by the first web site host.

38. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein providing the user code to a first web site host comprises the user manually providing the user code to the 1st web site host with the web site hosted by the first web site host.

39. (New) The method of claim 35 further comprising:
the online service assigning a second user code to a second portion of the user information;

the online service sending the second user code to the user computer via the Internet to enable the user to provide the second user code to the web site hosts;

the user providing the second user code to the first web site host upon deciding to purchase something from the first web site host;

the first web site host sending the second user code received from the user to the online service;

the online service determining a level of access for which the first web site host is authorized from the second user code; and

the online service sending to the first web site host user information that pertains to the second user code.